

plus which had previously accumulated. That surplus having been exhausted, and the anticipated increase in the revenue not having been realized, owing to the depression in the commercial business of the country, the finances of the department exhibited a small deficiency at the close of the last fiscal year. Its resources, however, are ample; and the reduced rates of compensation for the transportation service, which may be expected on the future lettings, from the general reduction of prices, with the increase of revenue that may reasonably be anticipated from the revival of commercial activity, must soon place the finances of the department in a prosperous condition.

Considering the unfavorable circumstances which have existed during the past year, it is a gratifying result that the revenue has not declined, as compared with the preceding year, but, on the contrary, exhibits a small increase; the circumstances referred to having had no effect than to check the expenditure.

It will be seen that the postmasters general suggest certain improvements in the establishment, designed to reduce the weight of the mails, cheapen the transportation, ensure greater regularity in the service, and secure a considerable reduction in the rates of letter-postage—an object highly desirable. The subject is one of general interest to the community, and is respectfully recommended to your consideration.

The suppression of the African slave-trade has received the continued attention of the government. The brig *Dolphin* and schooner *Grampus* have been employed during the last season on the coast of Africa, for the purpose of preventing such portions of that trade as was said to be prosecuted under the American flag. After cruising off those parts of the coast most usually resorted to by slaves, until the commencement of the rainy season, these vessels returned to the United States for supplies, and have since been dispatched on a similar service.

From the reports of the commanding officers, it appears that the trade is now principally carried on under Portuguese colors; and they express the opinion that the apprehension of their presence on the slave-coast, has, in a great degree, arrested the prostration of the American flag to this inhuman purpose.

It is hoped, by continuing to maintain this force in that quarter, and by the exertions of the officers in command, much will be done to put a stop to whatever portion of this traffic may have been carried on under the American flag, and to prevent its use in a trade which, while it violates the laws, is equally an outrage on the rights of others and the feelings of humanity. The efforts of several governments who are anxiously seeking to suppress this traffic must however be directed against the facilities afforded by what are now recognized as legitimate commercial pursuits, before that object can be fully accomplished.

Supplies of provisions, water-casks, merchandise, and articles connected with the prosecution of the slave-trade, are, it is understood, freely carried by vessels of different nations to the slave factories and the effects of the factors are transported openly from one slave station to another, without interruption or punishment by either of the nations to which they belong, engaged in the commerce of that region. I submit to your judgement whether this government, having been the first to prohibit, by adequate penalties, to slave-trade—the first to declare it piracy—should not be the first, also, to forbid to its citizens all trade with the slave factories on the coast of Africa; given an example to all nations in this respect, which, if fairly followed, cannot fail to produce the most effective results in breaking up those dens of iniquity.

M. VAN BUREN.
Washington, Dec. 5, 1840.

WHAT'S TO BECOME OF THEM?

New that the political contest is settled, it becomes a serious question to know what shall be done with the itinerant orator; the lecomotive ballad-singers, and the whole tribe of electioneering agents; whose services have been in such requisition for the last six months. Their occupation is gone; there is no further demand for their services; what will they do for their further support? Return to their former trades and occupations? That is impossible; six months of illness and frolic have impaired their habits of industry, and unfitted them for business application. Many of them who attached themselves to the successful party, will no doubt stick to its skirts, in hopes to receive, in their distribution of favors, a share equal to their patriotic exertions in its behalf. The largest mouth takes the greatest quantity to fill, and as there are many mouths to supply, some must necessarily get less than their appetites demand.

The slighted patriots, disappointed in their expectations, will retire, disgusted, impressed with the conviction that they have been most ungrateful, full dealt with by a country whose salvation was owing to their unsleeping vigilance and self-denying sacrifices. Of the same class of gentry of the unsuccessful party, amateurs and professional, we know not what is to become; there are no offices for them, and consequently there can be no expectations. The best that we can recommend, is to emigrate; their country will not need their services for the next four years, and will probably be benefited by their emigration.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

CENSUS OF VERMONT.

	1840.	1830.
Addison,	23,569	24,940
Bennington,	16,877	17,470
Chittenden,	22,978	21,496
Caledonia,	21,891	19,943
Essex,	4,226	2,981
Franklin,	21,532	22,034
Grand Isle,	3,883	3,696
Lamoille,	10,388	8,930
Orange,	27,873	27,285
Orleans,	13,634	11,375
Rutland,	30,761	31,295
Washington,	23,506	20,206
Windham,	27,431	28,748
Windsor,	40,359	40,623
	291,838	250,679

A whig paper says, that at the late election in Kinderhook, the sheriff and constable ran ahead of Mr. Van Buren; upon which the editor of the Baltimore Republican remarks, that this is much more creditable to the President than it would have been had they run after him.

New Zealand has at length been declared a British territory. Governor Hudson made proclamation to this effect on the 21st of May.

Who loves Julia Ann—Julia Ann, is the name of a new vegetable soap prepared in New York. Some of the soaps at our theatres have quite pretty names, but they would not look quite so delicious in a plate. Would they brother Planet? By-the-bye, ask Corporal Streeter if he loves Julia Ann—if he likes it best, thick or thin?—*Philadelphia Transcript.*

He'll like it thick, like his skull.

Gen. Harrison will be 68 years of age in February next.

The Spirit Of The Age.

To check Achilles and to rescue Troy.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 18, 1840.

SEE FIRST PAGE.

The Message has crowded out our usual variety.

NEW-YEAR'S PRESENT.

A FIRST RATE SUGGESTION.

A subscriber sends us word that he intends to make us a new year's present, in the shape of a few new subscribers! That will be first rate.

Who of our friends will entitle himself to our hand-some bow?

Now, as we do n't wish to have the boot all on one leg, we will make an offer ourself. To any one who will make us a present of ten good responsible subscribers, for one year, we will make a present of a copy of the *Age* for the same time. This is n't that fair?

THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY.

The democracy of Bridgewater propose to celebrate the Anniversary of the battle of New-Orleans, in the usual manner. An address will be delivered.

The democrats of the neighboring towns are respectively invited to attend.

Further particulars will be given in our next.

THE MESSAGE.

We present our readers, this week, with the last message of MARTIN VAN BUREN. We need not say that it sustains the enviable reputation which all his public documents have won for him. His tone, under existing circumstances, is admirable, and calculated to win respect and admiration even from his political enemies. No allusion is made to his defeat, and by no word or letter does he evince the slightest feeling on the subject. This is as it should be.

The great constitutional position which he assumed at the commencement of his administration, is again ably and irrefutably sustained. Indeed, his masterly defence, has never been met by than one of his opponents for the reason, that it could not be, except by such scullions as Ogle, who fincally, that the principles of a man are to be weighed and sustained or overthrown by the fashion of his kitchen utensils and the quality of his linen.

This part of the message we recommend to particular consideration. It is fortunate that this week's *Age* contains a portion of Mr. MADISON's report, that our readers, by comparison, may see, that Mr. VAN BUREN is treading upon old republican ground—ground that JEFFERSON, MADISON and all the Republican fathers of the constitution occupied, and endeavoring to maintain which, he has been defeated in the late canvas for a re-election.

We commend the message to a candid perusal by all parties.

If persons having business to transact with this office, must direct their letters to the editor, and not to the Postmaster of this place. As he has no concern with the *Age*, it is only making him trouble without pay, to burthen him with our business.

TRouble! TROUBLE!

Really, now, we are sorry that we give our good friends, the Old Tuppens, so much trouble. We are positive they cannot take over much care of their own business while they are so vigilantly watchful over ours.

Lately, we have not edited the *Age*, but the Rev. RUSSELL STREETER, so they say, has undertaken the task, assisted by some half dozen others!

The slighted patriots, disappointed in their expectations, will retire, disgusted, impressed with the conviction that they have been most ungrateful, full dealt with by a country whose salvation was owing to their unsleeping vigilance and self-denying sacrifices. Of the same class of gentry of the unsuccessful party, amateurs and professional, we know not what is to become; there are no offices for them, and consequently there can be no expectations.

The best that we can recommend, is to emigrate; their country will not need their services for the next four years, and will probably be benefited by their emigration.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

WINDSOR COUNTY COURT.

The jury were dismissed last week. There were about 400 causes on the docket—120 marked for trial by jury—only ELEVEN tried! It would seem that something ought to be done that people, who are so unfortunate as to get into the law, may get out, some time in the course of their lives.

The expense and trouble of attending court, term after term, with no prospect of ever coming at a trial is tolerably hard upon a portion of the community. Something should be done, either by a division of the county or in some other way.

Things are absolutely intolerable as they are now. So say we all.

WE LIKE IT.

The Boston Post, a few days since, contained the following, which strikes us favorably.

The Essex Banner—a judicious and well conducted journal—says:

"Let it be put to every or any candid man, if he would prefer to have the *State elections*, *through the Union*, *take place on one and the same day*. He will, most certainly, reply in the affirmative; and also that the Presidential election shall be had simultaneously with those of the States."

The Banner thinks that a recommendation from Congress to this effect, would ensure its success.

WE ARE REQUESTED TO GIVE NOTICE THAT WE HAVE NOT FOUND OUT ABOUT THE UNION BALL THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE AT THE CAPITOL TO-NIGHT. A UNION BALL, THAT WITH A VENGEANCE—ALL IS CREATED IN MANAGING IT. THEY MUST BE A MISERABLE SET OF FOLKS UP NORTH IF IT TAKES ABOUT FORTY OF THEM TO STEER ONE BALL.

By-the-way, Marston, can you dance?

There is a little piece of poetry ours, called "A Picture," commencing

"The farmer sat in his easy chair," that is going about the papers, for which we don't get any credit. We merely mention it to say that we don't care a cent about it; not a cent.

Why the d—l don't you ex?" says a paper received a day or two since. For the very good reason, that we judge by the familiarity with which you use certain names, we should not get into good company by so doing.

We don't see how it is that some politicians are so fond of turning—we only turned our ankle a week or two, and suffered more by it than we would willingly suffer again to be made President. If turning a single joint produces so much agony, we should think that turning *all over* would nearly kill a man, and yet Mr. J. Q. Adams has lived to an advanced age."—*Bost. Post.*

True, but you forget that although Mr. Adams turned from federal to democrat and nearly dislocated every joint in his body, he became his own surgeon, and by turning back to federal, reduced all the luxations and made himself sound again."—*Buffalo Republican.*

All but his head.

A QUERY.

Will the cederites charge the rise of tea, to the ruinous measures of the present administration?

If they should, it would be about as consistent as a thousand other charges of theirs.

LAST CHANCE.

All the girls who have been arter fellers, this year, are most respectfully reminded that 1840 is nearly up, and that now or never is the time to put in the fine work.

The innumerable caravan' what has been wear-ing yesterdays and fixes, for our especial benefit, are notified, that we are, as yet, uncouth; and being rather an old bird, pretty particular and apt to be o-e-p-h, if everything don't look to suit us; we advise them to throw their grapping irons to a dead certainty, and tolerably soon.

P. S.—Be a little careful not to hook into any of the old places. It will be less apt to tear out if you hook into a new place, if you can find one; but that is your hook out.

We see that our friends, J. J. Beardsley, J. G. Smith and Geo. F. Houghton, Esqrs. have taken a panther leap up the ladder of fame. They have it all got to be *Major*. Don't your heads swim? It is a dizzy peak you stand on. Do you know that the sun shines the hottest on the highest hills?—Better come down into the vale. Somebody will get to be envious and say something about you, if you are not careful with what strides you "Jim along" in this beautiful world of ours. At any rate, here's your health, gentlemen.

"Girls are always crying about something. The most delightful moments of their existence are spent in crying; whether it is for their sins or not, we cannot say, but they frequently express themselves very much refreshed after a "good crying spell," as they call it. School girls cry over a vain effort to manufacture a "composition;" they will cry when they meet friends, and when they leave them; they cry because they can't get married, and some cry because they are married! What melting creatures!"—*Morning Tattler.*

Are these matters that concern you, Mr. Tattler, we should like to know? Such mushy, fusty, crusty, curmudgeons as yourself had better retire to private life, if you can't find anything better to talk about than our little private crying spells.

P. S. Our sun's wrote the preceding.

CHAPMAN advertises for a partner. What say your humble servant? We will engage to do the fighting if you will do the crowing.

There is a waspish little fellow of an editor down east, who exhibits great anxiety to get into a quarrel with us. He handles vituperative phrases rather naturally, but if he wish to find himself so completely immersed in a shower of gall and wormwood, that he won't know whether he is in the body or out of the body, let him "jim along" a few steps further.

"This bringing up daughters to think of nothing but dress, and finery, and balls, and parties, and beau's, is not discharging the duties of a mother who wishes the welfare of her children. Send them into the kitchen. Teach them to wash, and cook, and to scour. It will not hurt them; it will do them good, both mentally and physically."

Boston Transcript.

We should like to see the editor of the *Transcript* show his head in any public place, up this way, that's what we should. "Send them into the kitchen," indeed! Oh, my! Is there a human asyl um in Boston? The transcript is clean gone!

The times are out of joint.—*New Haven Register.*

Which "Times," the Philadelphia or Boston?

How werry perticker.—The N. Y. Mercury says

there is an old bachelor in that city, who is so care ful of his health, that he wraps it up every night, and goes to bed, in a clean sheet of paper, with a stick of horseradish candy. Wonder if it is the same chap that refuses to sleep with himself because he snores; and hires himself out on cold nights, to get into bed for folks.—*New Haven Register.*

Mr. Register! you are K. K. (*keer kitter*.)

"I say Tom, why do you hang your head so these days?"

"I'm looking after the money they said would be lying about the streets when "old Tip" was elected President."

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By-the-way, Marston, can you dance?

We will give a twisted nutcake, to any body who will find a word in the English language that will rhyme with *sister*.

WE ARE REQUESTED TO GIVE NOTICE THAT WE HAVE NOT FOUND OUT ABOUT THE UNION BALL THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE ON THE SAME DAY AS THE CHRISTMAS EVE. SERVICES ARE ALSO EXPECTED ON CHRISTMAS DAY, AT THE SAME PLACE.

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